

Manics man meets The Vines

Manic Street Preachers frontman **James Dean Bradfield** has joined the growing band of admirers of rising stars **The Vines**, declaring the Australian four-piece "absolutely fucking amazing".

Speaking to *NME* at the end of their week-long series of UK shows, Vines bassist Patrick Mathews explained that the Manics frontman enthused about the band when he met them backstage following their show in Bristol.

"He was really, really nice," he said. "He came and said hello. We were a bit in awe. We kept trying to say the Manics are incredible but he kept going, 'No, no, no fuck ye, fuck ye!' He kept saying how much he liked the band and the show. It's really nice people have all these things to say about us. It's just a bit hard to get our heads around."

Mathews added that the week-long series of gigs, which saw The Vines described variously as the new Nirvana and this year's Strokes, were "absolutely crazy".

"We didn't know what to expect," he explained. "We didn't think that people would be this kind to us."

The Vines are now off to LA to film a video for forthcoming single, 'Highly Evolved', due for release on April 8, and to finish artwork for their debut album which follows in early summer.

They return to London for an *NME* 5.0 show at the London Astoria on April 5 with **Doves**. Other headlining shows will be added, the first of which sees The Vines play London ULU on April 10.

For tickets, ring the *NME* 24 Hour Ticketline on 0870 1 663663. Calls are charged at national standard rate.

